

ADDITIONAL FEE:

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R E M A R K S

The Office Action issued March 8, 2007 has been received and its contents have been carefully considered.

Submitted herewith, as requested by the Examiner, is a form PTO/SB/08A and in compliance with 37 CFR §1.98(a)(2) listing each of the relevant and material foreign references known to applicants. A copy of each of the references is also enclosed.

Claim 34, the only independent claim in this application, has been amended to more clearly delineate the structure of the "first wiper blade guide" as required by 35 USC §112. The last element of claim 34 -- namely, the "means for adjusting the position of the cutting unit" -- has been deleted and made the subject of a separate dependent claim 57.

New claims 56-63 have been added. Claim 56 recites that "the entrance to said longitudinal passage, and said first wiper blade guide, are curved." Claim 58, dependent

from claim 34, adds an additional element -- "a device for measuring the cutting depth".

Claims 59-62 are dependent from new claim 58 and track the language of original claims 15-18, respectively. Claim 64 is also dependent from claim 58 and recites that the "means for measuring cutting depth has a stop member...".

Submitted herewith are Replacement Sheets 2, 4 and 5 containing revised Figs. 4, 6 and 7, respectively. These figures show the spindle F recited in claim 40 and the adjusting wheel E in threaded relationship.

Claims 34, 36-38, 40 and 46-49, as previously presented, have been rejected as being anticipated by the U.S. Patent No. 6,581,291 to Tarpill et al. Insofar as this rejection may apply to claim 34 as now amended, it is respectfully traversed.

Although the "cable stripping tool" disclosed by Tarpill et al. performs a different function from applicants' device for trimming windshield wiper blades, and performs this function in a different manner, the structure of applicants' device, as previously recited in independent claim 34, was not clearly delineated over the device of

Tarpill et al. As the Examiner pointed out in the Office Action, the device of Tarpill et al. includes a first guide (40, 42 and 44) located adjacent to the longitudinal passage in the basic body, and a second guide (30) located in proximity to the cutting blade.

Applicants' claim 34 has now been amended to recite that the "first wiper blade guide" comprises:

"two longitudinal webs arranged on said [basic] body on opposite sides of said entrance in facing relationship to each other, for guiding a wiper blade between them."

Applicants' claim 34 thus defines the "first guide" as comprising the two longitudinal webs D arranged opposite each other at the entrance to the longitudinal passage N.

The device of Tarpill et al. not only fails to include the pair of longitudinal webs as recited in applicants' claim 34, but this prior art device would not function as a cable stripping tool if such webs were provided. Unlike a wiper blade, a cable is substantially cylindrical in shape and must be inserted completely into a groove. If any guidance is required, such guidance takes place within the groove and not at the longitudinal entrance to the groove.

Accordingly, claim 34, as amended, is believed to distinguish patentably over the cable stripping tool of Tarpill et al.

Since all of the formal issues raised by the Examiner have been resolved by this Amendment, and since claim 34, the only independent claim in this application, now distinguishes patentably over the single cited reference, this application is believed to be in condition for immediate allowance. A formal Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By


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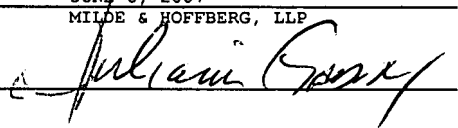
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JUNE 6, 2007

MILDE & HOFFBERG, LLP

By


Date JUNE 6, 2007